

Flight Jacket

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Feb. 23, 2001

CH-46 fleet undergoing more frequent inspections

By 1st Lt. David Nevers

Public Affairs, HQMC

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps has stepped up inspections of its CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters after the Naval Aviation Systems Command issued a directive Feb. 12 requiring an inspection every 10 flight hours to monitor a key rotor head component for fatigue-related cracking.

The new requirement, which affects all 308 H-46 aircraft in the Navy, including 229 CH-46Es belonging to the Marine Corps, shortens the existing inspection interval of 25 flight hours per aircraft.

The decision, announced in an airframe bulletin, was made after a 25-hour inspection Feb. 1 revealed a crack in a Navy H-46's Forward Longitudinal Differential Bellcrank, which aids in changing the pitch of the forward rotor head. Failure of the bellcrank results in the loss of control of the aircraft.

It was the third time such a crack had been discovered. NAVAIR officials decided to increase the frequency of inspections to ensure safe operations until analysis has been completed or new inspection techniques are developed.

Each recurring inspection takes approximately 30 minutes. The inspection, which involves spreading the aircraft's blades, poses particular challenges aboard ship, where space is limited.

February 19's decision marks the third time in more than two years that the H-46, a Vietnam-era dual-rotor helicopter used by



The Marine Corps has stepped up inspections of its CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters after the Naval Aviation Systems Command issued a directive Feb. 12 requiring an inspection every 10 flight hours. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

the Marine Corps to transport troops and equipment, has been the subject of an airframe bulletin.

In December, a NAVAIR bulletin required the inspection of a hydraulic-pressure hose assembly in all CH-46E aircraft after it was discovered that a number of the assemblies had been improperly assembled and delivered. In December 1998, the first discovery of a crack in the suspect bellcrank prompted the original 25-hour-inspection requirement.

In recent years, increasingly frequent operational restrictions imposed to ensure safety have effectively diminished the capability of the nearly 40-year-old CH-46E. Initially intended to carry as many as 25 Marines from ships to shore, the helicopters are now routinely restricted from carrying more than 12 troops.

Despite programs to extend the service life of the Sea Knight, maintenance personnel are finding that components that have never before failed are beginning to break

due to increased age and fatigue.

A recent NAVAIR study found that two-thirds of the growth in Aviation Depot Level Repair costs is attributable to aging and obsolescence, which also result in higher maintenance demands and lower reliability and readiness.

Between fiscal years 1993 and 1998, the cost per flight hour of maintaining the H-46 has risen approximately 75 percent in 1998 dollars. Flight hours, meanwhile, declined 23 percent during the same period.

Bush 'reluctant' to deploy servicemembers overseas



President George W. Bush

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

During his campaign last year, the new commander in chief promised to critically review the number of troops deployed overseas with the intent of reducing that number. Feb. 14 the President spoke more about his plans.

During a visit to the West Virginia National Guard Headquarters, President George W. Bush spoke about his reluctance to deploy American servicemembers in peacekeeping operations.

"We'll work with our allies. We'll help make the peace, but we're going to be reluctant to put troops on the ground to keep people apart, warring parties apart," said Bush.

"There will be no precipitous withdrawal from the commitments we inherited, but as we go forward we will be careful about troop deployment."

Since his inauguration, President Bush has stressed pullbacks of deployed forces would only take place after he consulted U.S. allies who have expressed concern about the United States retreating from the global stage, according to Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network reports.

"We'll work with our allies. We'll help make the peace, but we're going to be reluctant to put troops on the ground to keep ... warring parties apart."

George W. Bush
commander in chief

During his weeklong tour, President Bush spoke about several subjects that are important to American servicemembers including improved reliance on technology, better training, higher pay and modernized housing.

"While you're serving us well, America's not serving you well enough," President Bush said in a speech promising \$5.7 billion in new spending to improve quality of life in the armed services.

President Bush said his proposition would call for \$1.4 billion for pay raises, \$3.9 billion to servicemembers' health benefits, and \$400 million to improve base housing.

In addition to his plan to improve the quality of life among servicemembers, President Bush stressed the importance of "well-trained troops" who would be able to fully under-

stand and operate "next-generation" weapon systems.

Without discipline and courage, the finest of technologies cannot defend us, President Bush said.

President Bush's weeklong tour of military bases ended Feb. 13.

The President came to this final conclusion, "We owe you and your families a decent quality of life."

Don't be slow, get your cash

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines eligible for and interested in taking advantage of the selective reenlistment bonus will run out of time, March 13.

The first four months of fiscal year 2001 showed a record number of Zone A SRB contracts, according to MARADMIN 074/012. Because of this, Headquarters Marine Corps has placed a deadline on reenlistment packages.

"We need to get your reenlistment request submitted as soon as possible to ensure sufficient time exists to receive reenlistment authority and execute reenlistment before the SRB cut-off," said H&HS career planner, Staff Sgt. Liane M. Pollard, in a stationwide email dated Feb. 15.

See **Bonus**, page 11

Program takes 'novel' approach to learning

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

They encouraged the children to laugh at the presidents, called James Madison "tiny," and told which president was bad at sports — why? To make learning about Presidents Day fun, of course.

The MCAS Miramar library took a "novel" approach to teach area children a little American history during their Presidents Day program, Feb. 15.

"We wanted to offer something different," said Addie Ross, library director and storyteller. "When I saw the book, 'So You Want to be President?' I knew we had found it."

Ross incorporated the reading of the book by Judith St. George, which was recently awarded the 2001 Caldecott Award for children's picture book, into the library's weekly storytime program.

The program — and the book — seemed well received by the children, as the entire

roomful was reduced to giggling at some of the stories and pictures included.

"It [the program] gets the kids opened up to reading," said Heather Case, Youth Center program assistant. "Look at them, they

See **Learning**, page 11



Addie Ross, library director, introduces a group of air station youth to political satire. Photo by Sgt. A.C. Strong

Miramar receives facelift on information highway

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Miramar's Web site has changed its look. For the last four months, Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig, 23, webmaster here, has been updating

the site's information and accessibility.

"Redesigning the site was a major undertaking," said Sittig, a Redding native. "It was also a challenge that I thoroughly enjoyed."

The old site needed a new look and was

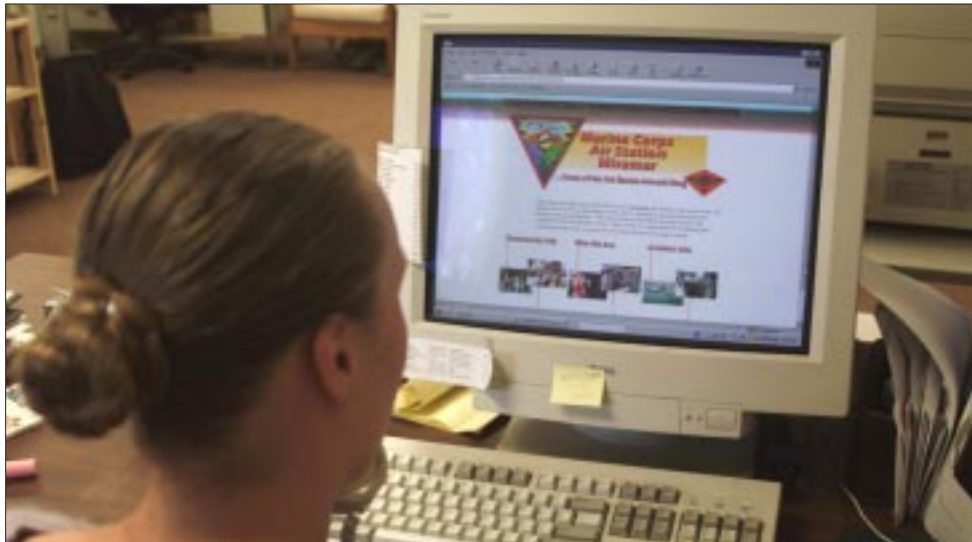
outdated, according to Sittig. Some links were nearly two years old and it was unorganized. Specific information was under obscure links and hard to locate.

Sittig restructured the information and streamlined it into six main sections. The six sections are Aviation information, Community information, New here, Who we are, What we do and Issues. The site was also simplified. Before the Web site had 52 links on the home page, making it time consuming to locate information. Now the links on the site have been placed in one of the six sections.

"I would like people to get a sense of professionalism and enlightenment from the Web site," said Sittig. "Not only specific to the Marine Corps' mission but also to that of Miramar and 3d MAW."

Organizing and updating were not the only changes made. Sittig also deleted extraneous pages and condensed others, proof read the existing pages, and added new ones.

See **Web site**, page 11



Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig, station webmaster, puts the finishing touches on Miramar's new Web site. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Help Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society help others

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Every day, in nearly 250 offices around the world, volunteers are hard at work with one common goal: To help members of the United States Naval services. It's that time of year again; the time when all Marines and Sailors are encouraged to financially support the organization that supports them.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's annual fund drive will kickoff here Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Officers' Club.

"The mission of the NMCRS, is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs," according to the NMCRS Web site, www.nmcrs.org.

The NMCRS, although sponsored by the Department of the Navy, receives no financial support from the government. The society relies on the annual contributions of Marines and Sailors, and donations from retired servicemembers to provide funding for the many programs offered by the NMCRS.

All financial contributions to the society are tax-deductible under Section 170 (b)(1)(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, according to the NMCRS Web site. All of the money is returned to Marine Corps and Navy clients in the form of relief or educational assistance.

The society offers a variety of services to ease the financial burdens of Marines and Sailors including interest-free loans and grants, needs-based scholarships for educational purposes, and budget counseling services.

In addition, the society offers food lockers at some locations, infant "junior

seabags," Budget for Baby seminars, thrift shops, and visiting nurse services.

"Last year, the NMCRS offered \$34.2 million in emergency aid and \$6.7 million in education programs for Marines, Sailors and their families," said Ann W. Evans, NMCRS director here.

"The fund drive is necessary to keep our name at the forefront of peoples' minds. If they know we're here, the Marines and Sailors will use our services when they need it. The fund drive keeps us strong," said Evans.

If donating money is not an option for a Marine or Sailor, the NMCRS can also benefit from volunteer service.

By working as few as two hours a week, an individual can acquire professional business skills, help other servicemembers in need, and increase public knowledge of NMCRS programs.

For more information, contact the NMCRS at 577-1807.

Flight Jacket



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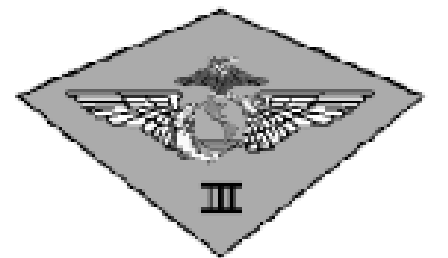
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MirRemarks

If you could give one suggestion at the sergeant major symposium, what would you suggest?



“The uniforms should stay the way they are. There’s nothing wrong with them.”

Staff Sgt. Paul D. Snyder
H&HS
FASO specialist



“Awards should be given for the merit of the job, not the merit of the ranking individual Marine.”

Staff Sgt. Freddie L. Roddy Jr.
MALS-16
production controller



“I would like the monitors to have more contact with the Marines receiving orders.”

Gunnery Sgt. Carl J. Simms
MALS-16
production control chief

Leaders should focus on small problems before taking on vital Corpswide issues

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

Commentary

This week’s MirRemarks column asks the question, “If you could give a suggestion at a sergeants major symposium, what would you suggest?” The generic answers came readily to mind: improve quality of life, recover unit morale, and develop more effective reenlistment incentives to name a few of the bigger problems we face in the Marine Corps. My suggestion (as a corporal with two whole years of experience) is to start small.

Starting small means figuring out what causes the bigger problems, and really listening to the junior Marines. What are the small problems, that when allowed to grow affect quality of life, unit morale, and retention?

For example, as trivial as it may sound, laundry room etiquette in the barracks can affect individual morale. I would get upset if some selfish Marine threw my half-dry clothes on top of a lint-covered dryer in an effort to expedite their own laundry process. It is the small, individual problems that breed crisis.

Pragmatically, individual morale is the building block of unit morale.

It is hard to recover unit morale when a host of small problems attack a majority of Marines within the same unit. Add into the equation the small problems a Marine encounters daily in the workplace, and you have a recipe for disaster. Again, the small problems can be blamed for low unit morale.

Finally, morale affects retention. When the leaders are focusing on the

“large” issues, the smaller issues fall by the wayside. The equation grows larger with every Marine that feels their leaders are too busy to concentrate on the small problems.

When David went out to conquer Goliath in the biblical parable, he didn’t rush right out onto the battlefield unarmed. David went to a dry creek bed to gather small stones for ammunition. No two stones were the same, but all the stones offered David victory. He then met the giant on the battlefield and promptly slew Goliath with one small stone.

The lesson: resolving small problems is like gathering stones. Every one offers new learning experiences.

When that knowledge is used as a weapon, the small stones will slay the giants of poor quality of life, depleted moral, and low retention. Good luck, sergeants major.

Ad Space

Mouth protectors guard teeth from sports injury

By Navy Lt. C. Sicat

Dental Clinic, MCAS Miramar

Mouth protectors are not new to football or hockey players, but what about other athletes? Couldn't baseball or basketball players benefit from wearing a mouth protector?

They sure could.

In fact, anyone who participates in a sport that could result in physical contact should wear a mouth protector. Mouth protectors can cushion a blow to the face, minimizing the risk of broken teeth and injuries to the soft tissues of the mouth.

A mouth protector generally covers only the upper teeth. Some athletes, though, like those who wear braces or those with a protruding jaw may need a protector for the lower teeth too. A properly fitted mouth protector will stay in place while wearing it, making it easy to talk and breathe.

There are three types of mouth protectors: stock; boil and bite; and custom-fitted.

Stock mouth protectors are inexpensive and come pre-formed, ready to wear. You can buy one at most sporting goods stores, pop it in your mouth and hit the field. Unfortunately, they don't always fit very well. They can be bulky and can make breathing and talking to your teammates difficult.

Boil and bite mouth protector also can be bought at most sporting goods stores and may offer a better fit than stock mouth protectors. They should be softened in water, then inserted and allowed to adapt to the shape of your mouth. To make sure you get a proper fit, you may want to ask your dentist to help you.

Custom-fitted mouth protectors are made by your dentist. They cost more than the other versions, but because they are custom-made they offer a better fit than anything you can buy off the shelf. Athletes who have braces or fixed bridge work especially should consider custom-fitted mouth protectors.



Sergeant Major's Column



By Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA

I've been asked by many Marines if they could put their thoughts, observations or opinions in my column to help get the word out. Master Sgt. Brian W. Anderson, from Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Squadron, asked if his observations about setting the example could be used. The master sergeant makes some very valid points that encompass many leadership traits and principles. Here is what he wrote:

We, as Marines, are to set the example at all times, whether in uniform or not. We are also leading the way for younger troops and setting goals for which they can strive. By that, we are doing the right thing, for the right reason, not just when it is convenient, but all the time. We, as Marines, live by a code that separates us from the other services. It is our responsibility to police our own, regardless of rank.

Think about how a captain would feel if a private first class would walk up to him and advise him he is making a poor example for those Marines around him by putting his hands in his pockets. I am sure the officer would be upset, but would realize the private first class was correct and that another Marine is viewing him as one who should be setting the example. Other examples can be seen on a regular basis, a Marine not wearing his or her seatbelt or not wearing his or her cover while driving. These might be small, but they are rules for everyone to follow. By not making the corrections as they

happen, we as leaders, are failing the system and failing our troops.

It seems a lot of us are just too busy to stop someone and tell them what they are doing is wrong. I see this day-in and day-out, Marines walking by another Marine who is setting a poor example, but for whatever reason they do not take the time to set him or her straight. Maybe because of this, the role of enlisted ranks have lost some of its posture. I hear a lot of Marines say they had more rank as a lance corporal than as a staff sergeant or is it they took more responsibility as a lance corporal than as a staff sergeant.

The more time you have in the Corps the more of a chance you will become complacent over the little things. The blinders will start to take shape and more of the little things will become insignificant to you or you will not take time to walk over and make adjustments to a Marine who may need a reminder. Then before long you are standing in line somewhere with a Marine in physical training gear and will not realized he is doing something wrong.

So what is it that will make Marines stand up to the plate and take charge? Is it more rank, more responsibility, or maybe pride that will prevail over the lack of leadership examples. They say a man without pride has nothing, so the reciprocal would be that a man with pride could rule the world. If we look at it as if everyone has the same responsibility and we are all here to do the same job, then our Corps would be better for everyone. It is time for all Marines to step up and take charge, make this a Marine Corps we can all take pride in.

ATTENTION COMMANDERS

Would you like to get your word out to more than just your Marines? Would you like to see your views on the Guidance Page? The Flight Jacket can help give you a wider audience than your squadron formation. The Flight Jacket staff encourages commanders, officers-in-charge, chaplains, senior enlisted leaders or anyone with a command message to submit commentaries, photographs or other content. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to foleymo@miramar.usmc.mil.



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Marines need to take charge, police own, set example

By Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

MARFORPAC

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — I want to start off by congratulating our latest sergeant major and master gunnery sergeant selects. Well done! After reviewing the selection list, I began thinking of what Marines (generally) are made of that make it to the top of our elite pay grade. We, for years now, have clung to the meanings of words such as honor, courage and commitment.

Words such as these are what dedicated Marines adhere to every day, in or out of uniform. And I believe the same can be said for the majority of our Marines who depart our elite Corps for duty with 1st CivDiv.

It would be great if we could boast that every Marine in our Corps took those great words to heart and did their best to live by them. But we all know for a fact that there's always going to be those individuals that sadly choose to march to the beat of a different drum.

It eats at my gut each and every time I turn on the news to hear of yet another Marine, through his or her individual actions, has disgraced our illustrious Corps. Their selfish, insensitive or criminally reckless deeds inevitably stain themselves and our institution. As we all know, "One 'oh crap' wipes out a thousand 'atta boys.'"

I get so upset with Marines who knowingly screw up or break the law, not simply because they embarrass the Corps, but because their thoughtless 'oh crap,' has just wiped out a thousand orphan visits, Toys for Tots drives, humanitarian missions and countless other selfless deeds by caring Marines.

Have you heard the saying, "It's the five percent problem Marines that require 95 percent of leadership's attention? Thus, it leaves only five percent of leadership's atten-

tion to give to the deserving 95 percent of our good Marines."

It's sad that those Marines who deliberately choose to be substandard performers and lawbreakers don't seem to care about the negative effects their actions have on not only themselves, but the Corps as well.

Where is their individual pride and self-respect? Where is their loyalty and concern for fellow Marines? Well, no matter whether or not they don't care about the consequences of their actions, the rest of us certainly do. And if we don't, we should!

I encourage every Marine, regardless of rank, to step up to the plate and make it a point to "police" the actions of fellow Marines.

Whether it's correcting someone's uniform or beginning legal procedures against a person for something criminal, we Marines should be the first to take action to police our own.

The problem is that too many of us have become complacent or scared when it comes to 'calling a spade a spade,' and to get involved to correct something or someone. That's just plain wrong, Marines.

We know that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. For that reason alone, we need to ensure all Marines understand their need to be responsible individuals; if not for themselves, for the rest of the Corps.

You all have heard that the actions of Marines and of our Corps seem to be more under a microscope (of the American public) than other services. I believe it's true and that we should be proud of that fact.

When you're the best, more is required of you to set the right example for others to follow. And for this reason, I think we need to hold each other more accountable. Marines shouldn't want, or have to have, anyone except Ma-

rines correcting our deficiencies.

Let me ask you, "What do Marines of a unit do prior to falling out for their unit inspection?" First, each Marine prepares and corrects everything they find wrong with their individual uniform. Second, he or she nit-picks himself or herself personally and their uniform until satisfied they and their uniform are ready to be inspected.

Individuals to be inspected then gather with the rest of their platoon where everyone nit-picks everyone else. Now why do they do that? Why do all those individuals, who have already prepared themselves for inspection, willingly request and expect others (within their platoon) to look them over? We all know the answer.

Marines ask their fellow platoon members to look for anything they might have missed that would embarrass them or make them fail the inspection. Each Marine seeks an outstanding rating from the inspector not only for personal reasons, but also for the entire platoon's rating. Internal policing of Marines within that platoon, produces unit pride and mission accomplishment.

It's no different in policing or correcting any deficiency of fellow Marines. That includes actions, attitudes, uniforms, civilian attire or anything else we know to need correcting. Getting back to that platoon. They willing seek to be policed by fellow platoon members, but they would be embarrassed if someone outside their platoon found something wrong. I feel it's no different when anyone outside our Corps has to step in to correct one of us. If we as a Corps (or as an individual Marine) have a deficiency, we want it to be corrected and corrected immediately because we want always to be squared away.

So let us all step up to the plate and not hesitate to police one another and to assist a fellow Marine, and ultimately our Corps, look and perform with pride and dignity.

Marines use NVGs to see what goes bump in the night

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

With today's technological advances, seeing in the dark is now possible with the use of night-vision goggles. However, with every high-tech piece of equipment, one must learn how to operate the hardware.

The Night Image and Threat Evaluation lab trains aircrew members of Marine Aircraft Group 11 and 16 on the operation, care of and troubleshooting of NVGs.

"We teach the basic competencies in order to be an NVG operator," said Navy Lt. Rich V. Folga, aeromedical safety officer and lab manager, MAG-16.

The NVGs are mounted on the helmet to free up Marines' hands, because aircrews wear helmets. Also, because helmets are not removed while in flight, mounting and adjustments are made while wearing it.

NVGs work by light energy that is reflected off objects and amplified inside the gear. The image is then projected on a phosphorus screen. The screen is what the eye is focused on.

"It's a pretty efficient piece of gear," said Folga. "But the gear would be useless if it's not properly cared for."

In class, all the way from removing them from their case to attaching them to the helmet and adjusting them to a custom fit Marines learn how to treat the goggles as if they were newborn babies. The size of the goggles determines how far from the eye they should be adjusted.

If the goggles are set correctly, the wearer will experience increased target detection, possible threats and situational awareness.

"Situational awareness allows the crew to process all the information to accomplish their objectives," said Folga.



Cpl. Eryn L. Redmon, ordnance technician, HMM-163, checks the fit of her night-vision goggles. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Marines have been using NVGs since the Vietnam War. Back then, the Starlight Scope was used. It was a monocular lens with limited abilities, compared to today's NVGs.

"It would be like comparing a 486-speed processor to the newest Pentium," said Folga.

Before the Vietnam War, nighttime flights were visually unaided. Many pilots were killed due to lack of situational awareness. They may have survived if the NVG technology existed, according to Folga.

Classes are offered on demand. Squadrons that are building new aircrews or need pre-deployment NVG training should send their Marines through the class, according to Folga. There are three primary instructors at the lab responsible for all aircrews' NVG training.

With the advantage of seeing in the dark, more missions are being flown at night. In order to accomplish those missions, the NITE lab instructors ensure the Marines have situation awareness in the night air.



Marines from HMM-163 learn how to attach night-vision goggles to their helmets at the NVG lab. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington



Sgt. Jason N. Ingle, crew chief, HMM-163, adjusts his night-vision goggles during training. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Ad Space

Armorers ensure accountability, well-maintained weapons



Lance Cpl. Victor M. Ayala, H&HS armory technician, performs an inspection using a barrel erosion gauge. (Below) Ayala cleans an M-14 rifle. Photo by Cpl. W. A. Napper Jr. By Cpl. W. A. Napper Jr.

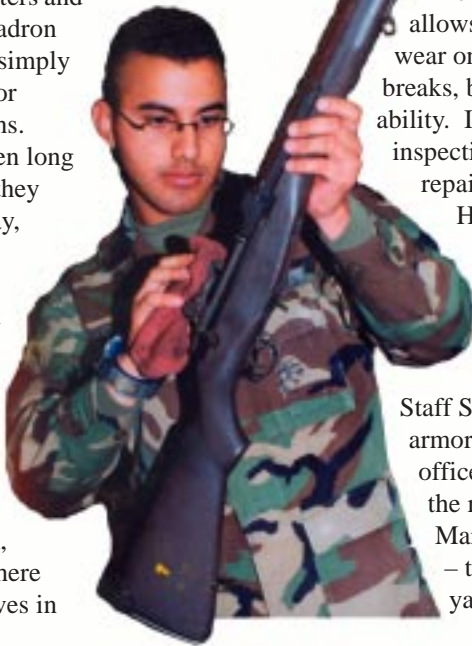
CPAO, MCAS Miramar

When many Marines here think of armory Marines, they usually see an image in their mind of a Marine in a cage, passing out rifles or refuting an inspection.

When they hear the term “small-arms repair technician” they may picture someone different. What they seldom realize is that they are one and the same person.

However, there is more to life behind the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron armory cage than simply passing out rifles or denying inspections. Their days are often long and stressful, but they return day after day, not because they have to, but because they want to.

Armory Marines come to work around 4:15 every morning not to an office, but to a chain-link, fenced-in room where they lock themselves in



from the outside. Once security measures are observed, they begin issuing weapons to Marines scheduled to fire on the rifle range. Throughout the day they ensure the accountability of the remaining weapons, inspect weapons fired by the previous week’s Marines and inspect weapons for next week’s shooters. They also inspect 10 percent more than they are scheduled to assign, in case they need to switch out a weapon due to irreparable damage.

One of the inspections armorers perform is the Pre-Fire Inspection. The PFI allows them to check for unusual wear on the weapon, cracks, breaks, bends and overall serviceability. If the weapon passes the inspection or can be easily repaired, it will be put back.

However, if a more detailed repair is necessary armory Marines send it out.

Throughout the day they also fill out reports on weapons’ condition.

Staff Sgt. Larry Armstead, H&HS armory staff noncommissioned officer in charge, said a copy of the reports go to Headquarters Marine Corps and Crane, Ind. — the birthplace and graveyard for the armory’s

weapons.

“There’s a lot that goes on with this armory,” the 29-year-old Detroit native said. “We are also responsible for hazardous materials control. We inspect all 11 armories in the compound and all explosive equipment.”

Armstead and his Marines said they believe one of the biggest and most important parts of their job is to help their fellow Station Marines firing on the rifle range at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

“We try to keep their spirits up,” said Armstead. “If they’re having a hard day we try to bring them back up.”

Lance Cpl. Crystal Hannon, H&HS assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, agreed with Armstead.

“It gets a little tough sometimes, but even then we think about our job here,” said the 21-year-old Brush Prairie, Wash., native. “We have to keep that extra patience and tolerance for the shooters.”

If a Marine feels their M-16A2 service rifle isn’t working properly, the armory Marines try to determine the origin of the problem and resolve the situation immediately. The armory Marines have to overcome a large obstacle though — since they didn’t fire the weapon that day they have to rely on the Marine’s description of what happened.

“We have to see it through their eyes,” said Armstead. “We’ll break down the weapon and usually find a small problem. We’ll be able to fix it for them right there.”

If the problem can’t be easily fixed, they’ll issue the Marine a new rifle for the next day.

Although each day varies, armory Marines often stay late because of delays at the rifle range.

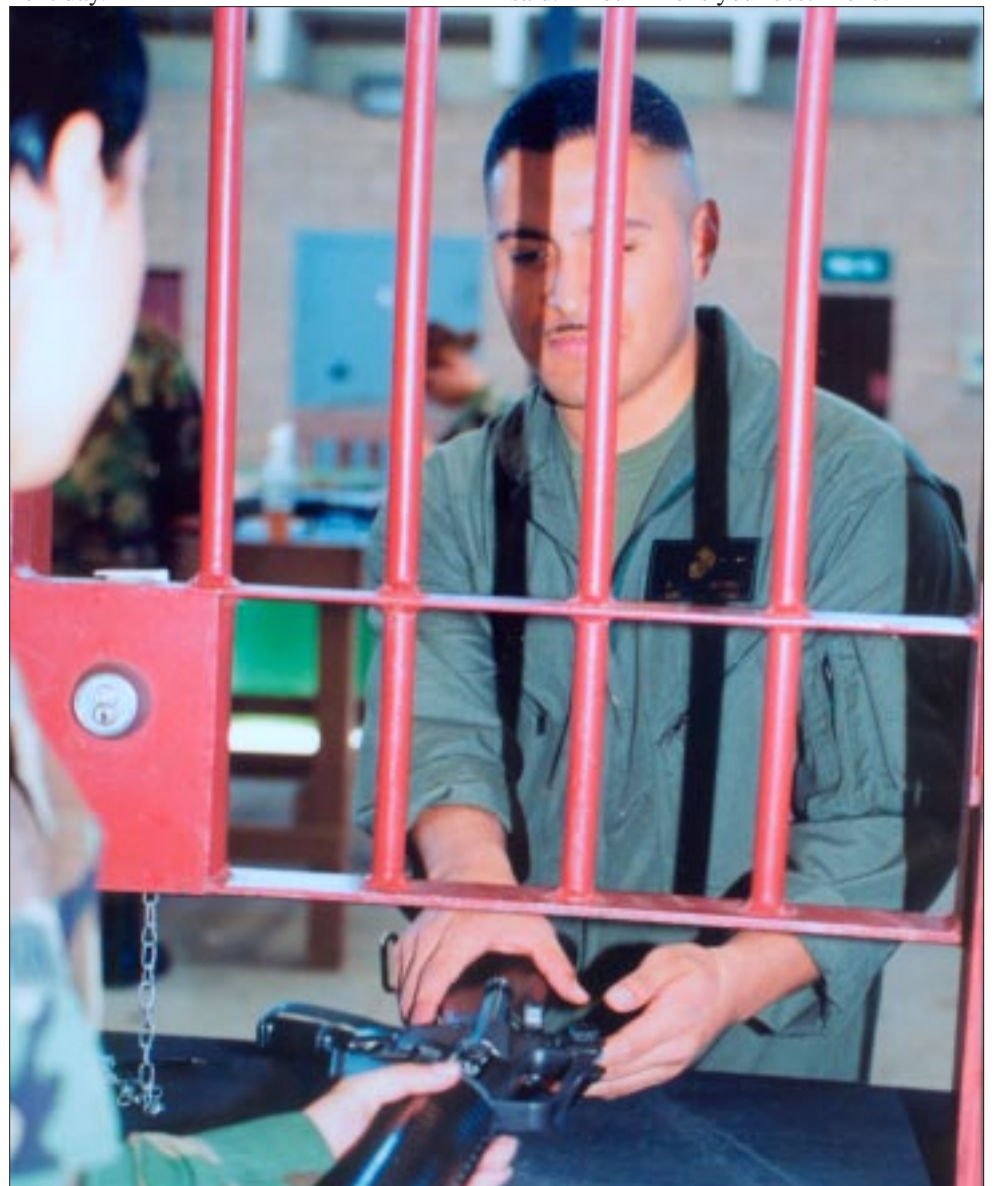
However, after they receive the weapons from the shooters and fix the reported problems, the armorers do a final count of the rifles, ammunition and miscellaneous gear before “spinning the dial” on their vault-like front door and leaving for the day.

Before an armorer can be locked inside their cage, they must attend three months of training at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Once there, they learn virtually everything there is to know about the M-16A2, 9mm pistol, M-203, .50-caliber machine gun and several other weapons. Although Station Marines mostly deal with the M-16 and 9mm pistol on a daily basis, Lance Cpl. Jamie Fredrickson, H&HS small-arms repair technician, said there is a good reason to learn about all different types of weapons.

“(As an armorer) you never know where they’ll send you,” said the 20-year-old Lancaster, Penn., native. “I have to know how to handle all types of weapons because I could be sent to an infantry base just as easily as an air station. I enjoy this job because it’s hands on. I can’t imagine being behind a desk.”

Although many Marines get frustrated when the time comes to clean their weapons, Lance Cpl. Victor M. Ayala, H&HS armory technician, offers his explanation why they are demanding on inspections:

“We’re so picky because when you go to the range you want a clean weapon,” he said. “Your rifle is your best friend.”



Lance Cpl. Antonio Lievanos, H&HS crash crew rescueman, receives his rifle from Cpl. Crystal Hannon, H&HS armory assistant NCOIC. Each rifle must be thoroughly cleaned before it’s turned in. Photo by Cpl. W. A. Napper Jr.

Ad Space



Heavy Haulers sharpen skills with 10-day desert exercise

Seven CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters fly in formation on the return home from a 10-day exercise that tested HMH-462's operational capabilities. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

By Cpl. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

MCAS Yuma, Ariz. — Eight CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 recently flew to the arid sands of Arizona for a 10-day exercise in a desert environment.

"We did exactly what we would have to do for a call to go tomorrow to a combat desert environment," said Lt. Col. Richard W. Schmidt, HMH-462 commanding officer. "We didn't do anything different."

The Heavy Haulers arrived at Auxiliary Airfield Two, a completely desolate area here Feb. 6. With the support of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, HMH-462 was fully operational in about seven hours.

The support of MWSS-371 provided morale and mission essential facilities to include showers, a chowhall and sleeping quarters for all personnel.

The squadron completed several heavy-lift operations, including a dual high mobility multipurpose wheeled

vehicle lift, multiple day and night tactical missions, including at least five gun shoots with .50-caliber machine guns mounted on both sides of the aircraft and four defensive-maneuvering missions.

The squadron's maintenance department played a key role in the unit's mission accomplishment. It performed two field engine changes and kept every aircraft fully operational.

The exercise demanded long hours, teamwork and determination to meet the challenge.

"These Marines didn't miss a beat, and met every obstacle head on," said Sgt. Maj. James P. Witherspoon, HMH-462 squadron sergeant major. "When problems did come up we all overcame them as a team."

During the last six months the squadron has turned over more than half of its experienced personnel. Many of the Marines in the unit have never been out on a detachment like this before.

One of Schmidt's highest priorities, was to get these fresh Marines into a difficult environment to let them see what teamwork is and does.

"We've got a real young squadron and this is the first detachment for a lot of these Marines," said Cpl. Ben Schneider, CH-53E crew chief. "It's great, because they get to see how pulling together as a team is the only choice we have when there's no chowhall, no barracks and we're working 16-hour days," said the Boise, Idaho native.

Beyond placing experience back into the unit, HMH-462 also reached a milestone achievement of 40,000 mishap-free flight hours during the exercise.

"It's all about operational excellence," said Schmidt. "It proves a great deal of excellence, especially for the Marines who have gone before us, as well as the Marines who are getting the job done right now."

This simulated forward deployment served as a tool to increase HMH-462's combat effectiveness, deployment readiness and improve the core capabilities of every Marine and staff section within the unit.

"It put that edge back on us that we've been needing," said Sgt. Victor L. Kazlman, CH-53E crew chief from Wheeling, W. Va.



Crew chiefs ready squadron aircraft for takeoff from Yuma. Photo by Cpl. Mike Camacho

Ad Space

Marines thrash radio personality on air



Clint stands at the position of attention as Marine drill instructors, (from left to right) Sgt. Issac R. Dove, Staff Sgt. James R. Smith II and Sgt. Timothy J. Snyder, Receiving Company, Support Battalion, who thrashed him, strike a pose. Photo by Sgt. Steven Williams

By Sgt. Steven Williams

Marketing and Public Affairs, RS San Diego

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, San Diego — He had a rude awakening on the yellow footprints, his head was buzzed clean, and he was pushed beyond his physical limits on the obstacle course as thousands of radio listeners tuned into a thrash session at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Feb. 15.

Clint “The Morning Show Tool,” a personality for the popular 91X “*Brand X Morning Radio*,” got only a small taste of the Corps’ initial training for the station’s “*Truth or Dare Thursday*,” but he said it was quite enough for the Marines to prove their reputation.

“I can not believe this,” Clint said, rubbing his fresh bald head in awe. “I mean, I had respect for (Marines) before, but now,” his sentence trailed off as he tried to catch

his breath again.

To relay the experience over the radio waves, Sgt. Steven A. Sarten, a recruiter with Recruiting Substation Poway, tagged along and provided detailed narration over a cellular phone. He was vital in the evolution because he sorted out the screaming and shouting of three drill instructors mixed into one big ball of intimidation and Clint’s “Yes, sirs,” “No, sirs.”

“They needed me to explain exactly what was happening — his actions and reactions,” said Sarten. “Since I was a Marine, they wanted me to relay in Marine terms how it was affecting him.”

Sarten spent a little time in the studio prior to the event to get an idea how to do visual descriptions in such a way that the general public could understand what was going on.

“I had a blast,” he said. “And, we were able to establish a great working relation-

ship with a huge radio station, which is part of Clear Channel Communications. They own almost every radio station in San Diego.”

Although listeners couldn’t see Clint’s emotions in the radio dial, they were truly intense for a couple of reasons. One was, of

course, because drill instructors attacked him like lions on a fresh piece of meat. But, the other was because he had no clue he was going to lose his civilian hairstyle or that he was going to be pushed through a Marine Corps obstacle course without mercy.

“I was scared,” Clint said. “This has to be one of the top three scariest things I’ve done.”

“They had quite a few people call in, who said it was one of best shows they had heard,” Sarten said after spending time with the station personalities following the event.

Normally, Clint is doing things like hitting the interstate on a lawnmower or trying to get an interview with professional golfer Tiger Woods while dressed in a gopher suit. Unlike these experiences, the Marine experience left a deep impression that may never wear off.

“My girlfriend is really mad,” he said over the air the next day. “When we first got together, she made me promise not to do two things. Shaving my head was one of them.”

But it made for great photos on the radio station’s Web site. In fact, the station put up a whole series of photos featuring Clint’s experience, along with digital video clips. They can be viewed at www.91X.com.

They also made it clear over the air that this evolution was just a drop in the bucket compared to the actual recruit experience. It can last up to 36 hours straight for new recruits hitting basic training. It was chopped to just two for Clint.

It was plenty of time for the Marines to slam their message through Clint into an audience scattered across Southern California — it takes “honor, courage, and commitment” to truly become one of the few, the proud.



Clint “The Morning Show Tool” slowly squeezes over the first bar on the MCRD obstacle course. Photo by Sgt. Steven Williams

Ad Space

Serve it up

Miramar seeks volleyball players

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A young man stood poised, waiting for the ball to return to his side. A 6-foot, 2-inch monster spikes the ball with vengeance. Then the lights go out after the ball strikes the awaiting player.

Miramar's volleyball team is looking for more athletes. Marines and Sailors aboard the air station are welcome to come to practices to be on the team.

Although the season doesn't start until October, they are preparing for the West Coast Regional Tournament in April at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.

The tournament begins April 8 and ends on the 14th.

The following day, those good enough and recommended by the coach may attend the All-Marine Trials in Hawaii. During the season last year, Miramar went undefeated until the semi-final round.

This year, the team has a new coach. Ray J. Cordeiro Jr., Miramar's coach and player, intends on winning the tournament and de-

stroying the competition during the season. Cordeiro has coached volleyball on three other bases over six years.

"We're going to win," said Cordeiro. "I only practice to win."

Winning every game is a challenge for any team, especially a new one. Cordeiro said his biggest challenge is putting different-level competitors on the same team and still being successful.

One player has played on a semi-pro level, Triple A league and played last year.

"I hope to bring experience and leadership to the team," said Zach Lonas, 12-year volleyball veteran and power spiker. "Also, wins wouldn't be bad either."

"Volleyball is a team sport," said Cordeiro. "You're only as good as your weakest person."

Practices are every Tuesday and Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Marine Corps Community Services gymnasium.

If interested in playing for the Miramar volleyball team, contact Master Sgt. Cordeiro at 577-8108 or show up at practice.

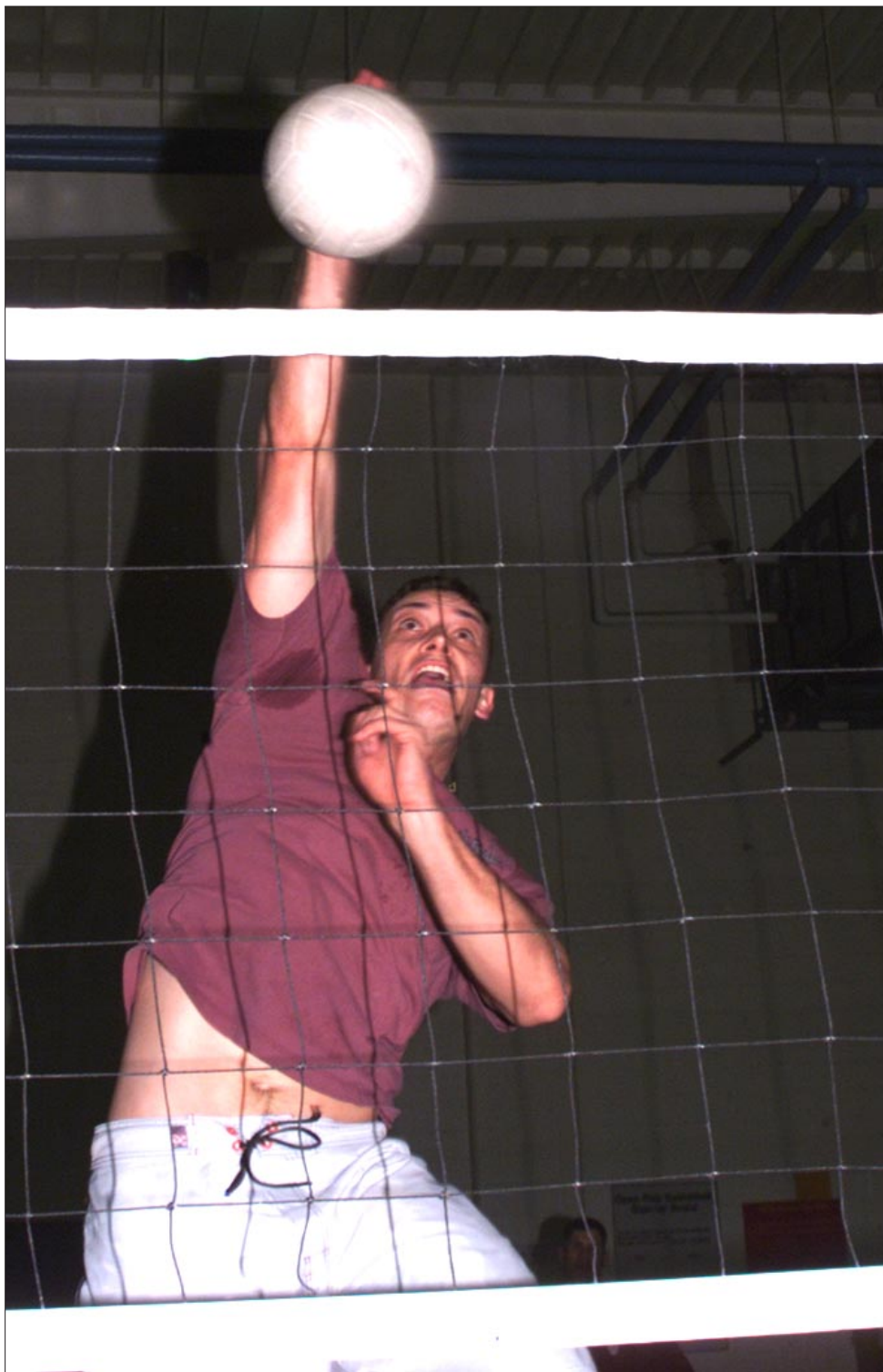


CG awards sports excellence

(Left) Col. Terry G. Robling, commanding officer, MAG-11, receives the Commander's Cup for his unit's involvement in intramural William G. Bowdon, commander, MCABWA. MAG-11 won the award in the Red Division for groups with more than 900 active-duty servicemembers. (Right) Staff Sgt. Steven Tomaselli,

SACO, MWSS-373, accepts the Commander's Cup for MWSG-37's involvement in intramural sports. MWSG-37 won its award in the Gold Division for units with less than 900 active-duty servicemembers. This is the first year these Commander's Cups have been awarded.

Photos by Cpl. Rob Henderson



Zach Lonas, team member, spikes a volleyball down during practice at the MCCS gym. The team is looking for new members. Practices are held every Tuesday and Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

Ad Space



Giddy re-up

Sgt. Diane B. Gutierrez, administration NCOIC, Co. B., MWCS-38, reenlists while mounted on her friendly steed, Goldie, at the Miramar Stables Feb. 16.

"I didn't want a company formation in a parking lot," said Gutierrez. This was her first reenlistment. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*

Run and gamble for health

The MCCS Semper Fit Fitness Center is holding the Las Vegas Healthy Heart Fun Run and Walk Feb. 23. The 3.3-mile run or 1.8-mile walk will begin and end at the fitness center. Walkers will begin at 11 a.m. and runners at 11:15 a.m.

Runners and walkers can pick up a poker hand at stops along the course. The best hands that cross the finish line will win

prizes. Call 577-4129 for more information.

More barber chairs available

Starting March 2, the exchange is providing a four-chair barber shop at the Enterprise Rental Car/Home Furnishing, Building #2257.

Its hours of operation will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Monday 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ad Space

Free movies from MCCS

Today
Antitrust (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
What Women Want (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.
Saturday
Double Take (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
The Family Man (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.
Sunday
Rugrats in Paris (G) 1 p.m.
Miss Congeniality (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Thirteen Days (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.
Thursday
102 Dalmations (G) 2 p.m.
Antitrust (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for everyone. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

MCCS Bowling league starting

Intramural bowling leagues are starting Tuesday.

A Glo Bowling League starts Feb. 26 at Jet Lanes, Building 2525.

Call 577-4131 for more information or to sign up.

Parenting lessons

Marine Corps Community Services' Marine New Parent Support Program presents Mom's Basic Training, a three-part course to be held on the first, second and third Thursday of March. The classes will be held at the Branch Medical Clinic from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All pregnant and newly delivered active-duty Marine moms or spouses are invited.

Dads and moms, couples and singles, are invited to attend Baby Boot Camp the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of each month at Building 2274. Call Lucy at 577-9935 for more information.

MCCS Freebies of the Week

Feb. 26 - March 2: The Miramar Lodge, Building 2516, has tickets to the Family Fun Center. Register for your chance to win. Call 271-7111 for more information.

Tricare changing coverage

Tricare's military healthcare is changing. To learn what's new, special briefings will be conducted for military retirees and their spouses, age 65 and older and active duty military and their families.

The special briefings will be held at MCRD, San Diego Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for retirees and their spouses, age 65 and older. Briefings for active duty servicemembers and their families at MCRD, San Diego Monday and Tuesday at 3 and 7 p.m.

Celebrate African-American History

The 3d MAW will hold an African-American history celebration Feb. 27 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the station theater Maj. Gen. Charles G. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d MAW, will be the keynote speaker.

San Diego CFC luncheon

The San Diego County Combined Federal Campaign will have its annual Appreciation Luncheon Thursday at the San Diego Marriott and Marina. The luncheon is held each year to recognize and celebrate the success of the San Diego CFC. It will be held in the San Diego Ballroom in the hotel beginning at 11:15 a.m. Dress is service dress blue "B" or service "A" for military and informal for civilians. There is a fee and advanced registration will guarantee seating.

Reservations must be made by March 2. For more information, call (858) 636-4114.

Nokia YMCA Golf Tournament

Rancho Family YMCA will hold a Nokia golf tournament and dinner auction. The golf tournament will be at the Stoneridge Country Club May 21. The dinner and auction will be held May 20. Call (858) 484-8788 for the location of the dinner. Proceeds from this event benefit YMCA youth programs.

San Diego Natural History Museum's scheduled events

The San Diego Natural History Museum will be closed until April 6. Starting April 6, the museum will re-open the doors to its new, expanded facilities. The museum also sponsors many events including:

- Canyoneer guided walks
- Adult field and overnight trips
- Children and family programs

The Museum will hold its grand re-opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., followed by a free open house from noon to 9 p.m. There are some fees. For more information, call (619) 232-3821.

Unclaimed items held at PMO

The Provost Marshal's Office has 11 unclaimed articles in its lost and found. If you can provide proof of ownership contact the Lost and Found Office at 577-6779. The hours of operation are 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Items PMO has in its possession include:

- Two pair of binoculars
- One camera
- One tripod
- Two coats
- One set of keys
- One bag with binoculars
- One compact disc player
- One speaker box
- Two wallets
- Three female rings

All unclaimed articles will be relinquished to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office or destroyed.

Test pilot school symposium reunion

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School will host its 53rd annual symposium and reunion at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md., April 20 and 21. Alumni who haven't been in contact with the school recently are asked to send their current mailing addresses to:

- Commanding Officer
- U.S. Naval Test Pilot School
- 22783 Cedar Point Road
- Patuxent River, MD 20670-1160
- For more information call (301) 757-5027



SURF THE FLIGHT JACKET ONLINE:

www.miramar.usmc.mil

Learning,
continued from page 2
are having fun and laughing, and they don't even know they're learning."
"And she's wonderful," said Maribel Acevedo, Youth Center program assistant. "Miss Ross is so good with the children."
Jody Rasmussen, a mother who home schools her children seemed equally appreciative of the program. "Programs such as this augment the educational agenda I've set up," said Rasmussen. "Right now we are studying American history and this falls right into that category."
Rasmussen, who brought her own children along with several other home-schoolers from her neighborhood, heard about the program from a friend, and was pleased to hear from Ross that there is a weekly story hour.
"Every Thursday at 2 p.m., we have regular storytime," said Ross. "Then once a month we try to coordinate a special guest reader, sometimes even authors."
After refreshments, each child left with a smile and a grab bag of goodies, compliments of the library. One lucky munchkin, Brian Brown, won the raffle and got to take "So You Want to be President?" home.
The question might be – "Did the children learn anything?"
In the spirit of Presidents Day, Miss Addie let them vote on the next story to be read. After deliberation and discussion about the voting process, "Tailypo" won in a landslide victory.

Bonus,
continued from page 2
The success of career planners and the Marine Corps retention team apparently "exhausted the SRB budget. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, 14 Mar 01, all SRB multiples will be reduced to zero," states the MARADMIN.
More than 1,800 more first-term alignment plan reenlistments are necessary to meet mission.
"This could affect the numbers necessary to meet mission," said Maj. David L. Ross, Headquarters Marine Corps enlisted career force planner. "If the bonus is what is helping them decide. If it is, then they need to act promptly."
That doesn't mean getting packages in by March 14, according to Ross, "Zone A Marines need to realize that you have to actually raise your hand and take the oath before March 14."
"We are researching every avenue possible with internal resources, but it's too early to say if there will be more money available," said Ross.
Marines in Zone B and C seem to be a chief concern for Headquarters.
"Career Marines have always been a concern for us and we are trying to get more money [for them]," said Ross. "Any [money] that comes available will be applied to support those zones."
For more information about these bonuses contact the career planners at 577-8681 or 8682.

Web site,
continued from page 2
Some squadrons provided their own links, while Sittig created sites for others.
"The squadrons have always been great," said Sittig. "They gave me the updated information quickly and it helped make my job considerably easier."
The new site contains information on the new bimonthly station tours and drop menus and the main links so the viewer can preview what is on the site before clicking it. Also, Sittig is working on putting a search engine on the site, as well as a photo gallery of Miramar's units and community projects.

To make her job easier in layout and design, Sittig read multiple books on the subject. Before the site went active, Sittig ensured all the links were operable, all information was accessible, and double-checked the layout on each page to ensure consistency throughout the site.
The new site has the same address, www.miramar.usmc.mil, and hosts parent commands, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Aircraft Group 46.
"I am excited all the work I've done will be seen by people and that they will reap the benefits," said Sittig.

Non-Judicial Punishment

A lance corporal with Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron was awarded NJP for violation under the Uniform Code Military Justice Article 108, destruction of government property and Article 111, reckless operation of a vehicle, aircraft or vessel. The Marine was awarded forfeiture of \$250 per month for two months and 30 days of restriction and extra duties.
A lance corporal with H&HS was awarded NJP for violation under the UCMJ of Article 86, absent without leave and Article 92, failure to obey an order or regulation. The Marine was

awarded 15 days at the Correctional Custody Unit.
A lance corporal with H&HS was awarded NJP for violation under the UCMJ of Article 92, failure to obey an order or regulation. The Marine was awarded forfeiture of \$250 per month for two months.
A private first class with H&HS was awarded NJP for violations under the UCMJ of two violations of Article 92, failure to obey an order or regulation. The Marine received 30 days of extra duties.

LOOK FOR NEXT WEEK'S FLIGHT JACKET FOR STORIES ON: MARINE MOTORCROSS RIDER AND A BUFFALO SOLDIER REENACTOR